VZCZCXRO3486 OO RUEHBT DE RUEHLM #0983 1971113 ZNR UUUUU ZZH O 161113Z JUL 07 FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6452 INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0499 RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 0288 RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 7272 RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 5381 RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 3914 RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1200 RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 3985 RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 3071 RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY 7865 RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI PRIORITY 5520 RUEHON/AMCONSUL TORONTO PRIORITY 0321 RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2212 RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS, IO/T, AND INL/C/CJ

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: <u>AORC</u> <u>PREL</u> <u>CE</u>

SUBJECT: COLOMBO PLAN MONEY RETURNED

REF: A. 06 COLOMBO 2118

¶B. 06 STATE 200147

On July 13 Colombo Plan Secretariat Finance Officer T.J. Arifeen confirmed that the money, USD 181,459 and Baht 31,450, seized from Colombo Plan Secretary General Kittipan Kanjanapipatkul in December 2006 (ref B) was returned to him and has been deposited into the Colombo Plan Secretariat's bank account. The Embassy was copied on a June 29 letter from the Finance Ministry to the Department of Customs directing that the money should be returned. Sri Lanka Customs took the money, USD 140,000 of which was INL money slated to fund a drug advisory program, from Kittipan as he tried to board a plane for Thailand with the undeclared currency in his suitcase. Kittipan's term as Secretary General ends in early August 2007.